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NEWS LETTER OF THE SOCIETY OF AMERICAN BACTERIOLOGISTS

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Office of the Secretary-Treasurer  
November 1941  
Volume VII, Number 6

1941 OFFICERS AND COUNCILORS

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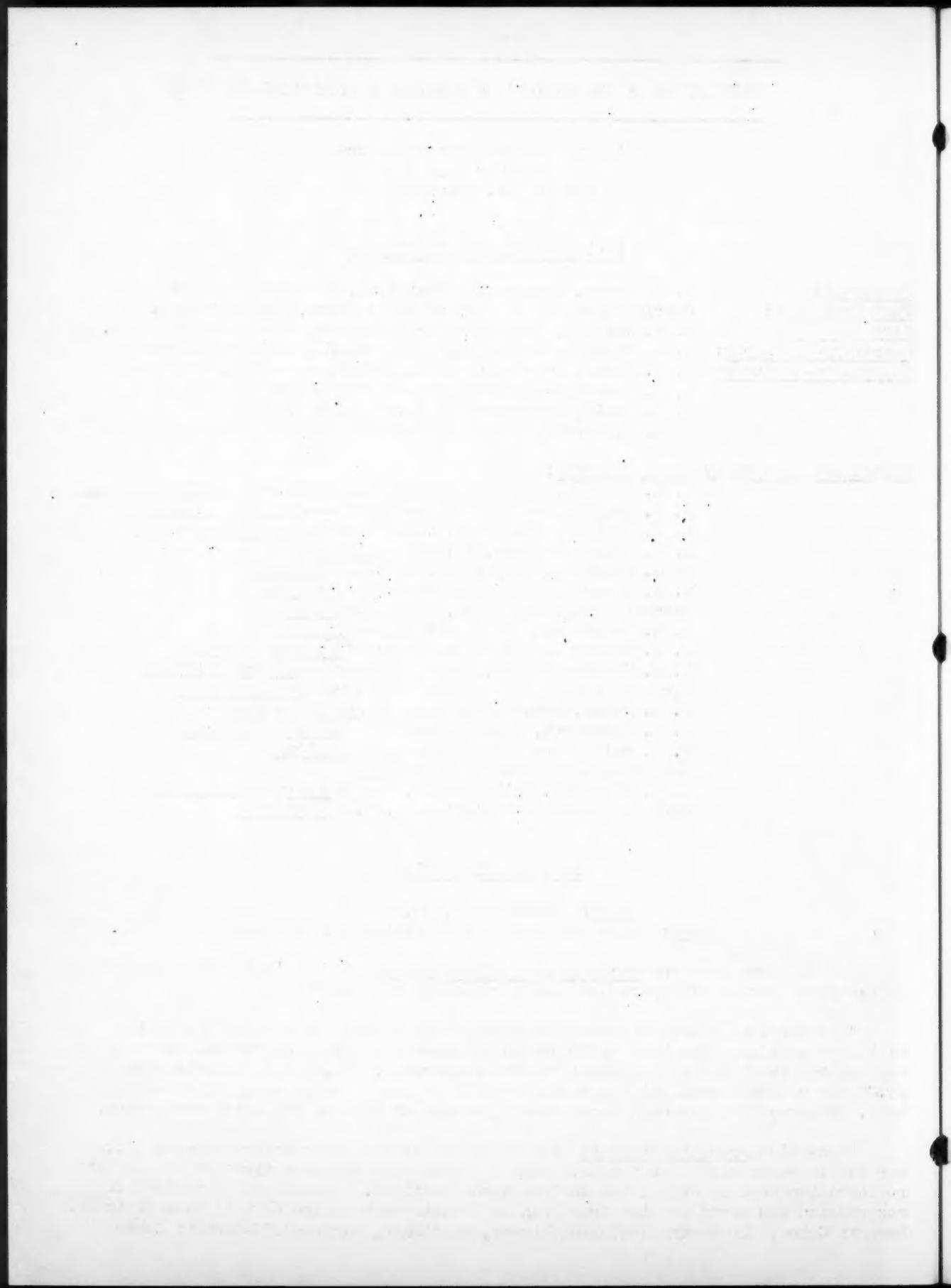
1941 ANNUAL MEETING

Time: December 29, 30, and 31  
Place: Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore, Maryland

You will see from the enclosed preliminary program of the Baltimore meeting that an excellent series of papers has been arranged by the Committee.

"The Maryland Branch welcomes the members and friends of the Society to the Baltimore meeting. The Lord Baltimore Hotel makes the following special rates to members and their guests applicable to the best rooms: \$3.00 for a single room; \$5.00 for a double room, with a double bed; \$5.50 for a double room, with single beds. Reservations for such rooms should be made at once to the hotel management.

"Bona fide graduate students will be housed at the headquarters hotel at \$1.25 per day in rooms with 4 or 5 cots. Such students must register first at the Society registration desk to obtain the desired accommodations. Delays can be avoided if reservation and certification from Dean or Department Head are sent in advance to Dr. Barnett Cohen, 710 North Washington Street, Baltimore, Maryland."—Barnett Cohen



DUES AND BALLOTS

Enclosed with the October News Letter was a statement of membership dues for 1942 and a ballot for officers of the Society for 1942. Your prompt attention to these matters will be greatly appreciated. If, for any reason, you did not receive these forms, the Secretary-Treasurer's office will gladly send you other copies.

NATIONAL SCIENCE FUND

The National Academy of Sciences is asking for aid in developing public interest and support for the newly created National Science Fund, the purpose of which is to provide a clearing house for advice on philanthropy in science and to which donors may entrust funds to be used for fundamental research. The National Science Fund will advise prospective donors to the end of making their gifts effective. It will, if the donor desires, act as the administrative agent in managing and disbursing such funds. Detailed information may be secured through the offices of the Fund at 515 Madison Avenue, New York City.

LOCAL BRANCH NEWS  
(Notes from the Secretaries)

Southern California Branch: "A general meeting of the Branch was held at the University of Southern California on October 23, 1941. Program: 'A survey for the evaluation of staining methods used in the diagnosis of tuberculosis', Joseph Pottenger, Pottenger Sanitorium, Monrovia, California.

"Miss Ruth Conrad has resigned her position as secretary-treasurer, and a recent election resulted in my being placed in this position."—Roy T. Fisk

Connecticut Valley Branch: "The program of our summer meeting in Durham, New Hampshire, was planned by Dr. Lawrence W. Slanetz in conjunction with the 75th anniversary celebration of the University of New Hampshire. The scientific program was:  
'Cultural and serological observations on Vibrio fetus', W. N. Plastridge.  
'The origin of droplet and air-borne infections, as shown by high-speed photography', M. W. Jennison.  
'Problems of public health', Walter Bauer.  
'The cycle of avian encephalomyelitis', Edwin L. Minard and Erwin Jungherr.  
'Studies on staphylococcal toxins', John M. Woodward and Lawrence W. Slanetz.  
'Lactobacillus caviae, description and differentiation from other lactobacilli', H. Gilbert Crecelius and Leo F. Rettger.  
'Isolation of oral spirochetes', Joseph Stone and Lawrence W. Slanetz.  
'Respiratory mechanisms of gram-positive, non-sporulating anaerobic rods', John W. King and Leo F. Rettger.

"The fall meeting of the Branch will be held at Brady Auditorium, New Haven, on Saturday, November 22 at 2 P.M."—Cynthia H. Pierce

Indiana Branch: "The program of our meeting at Indiana University on November 14 was as follows:  
'Studies on dry sterilization', K. B. Riddle and P. S. Prickett.  
'Isolation of a new clostridium producing blue pigment', L. S. McClung.  
'Sexual hormones in the fungi', John R. Raper  
'Riboflavin assay of cereals by the microbiological method', K. B. Riddle, L. J. Paul, H. J. Miller, P. S. Prickett.  
'The effect of flash pasteurization and subsequent treatment on the phosphatase value of cream', W. H. Brown and P. R. Elliker.

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'Significant differences in x-ray sensitivity among various species and strains of yeast', Raymond E. Zirkle.

'Rapid pertussis agglutination tests of circulation antibody in stock and Swiss mice treated with phase I pertussis vaccine', H. M. Powell.

'The immunizing value in guinea pigs of four types of typhus vaccines', H. A. Dettwiler.

'Observations on public health in England at war', N. Paul Hudson--P.A. Tetrault

Michigan Branch: The Branch met on Thursday, November 13, in the Veterinary Building, East Lansing. The following program was given:

'Carbohydrate metabolism of the coliform group', M. L. Mickelson.

'Strain 3 lymphomatosis-osteopetrosis in chickens, serial passage results and demonstration of pathology', C. A. Brandley, N. M. Nelson, G. E. Cottrial.

Eastern Missouri Branch: A meeting was held on October 21 at the St. Louis University Medical School, Dr. G. A. Hunt presided. The newly elected Secretary is Mrs. Helen Norris Moore, Fouke Fur Company, St. Louis.

New York City Branch: "The fall and fifteenth meeting was held at the College of Physicians and Surgeons on Tuesday evening, October 28.

"The following officers were elected for 1942: President, Dr. Edward J. Keegan; Vice President, Miss Mary Horton. The program follows:

'Synergistic action between sulfonamide wetting agent and azochloramide', Orville Wyss and F. B. Schmelkes.

'Studies on preservation of human plasma with sulfonamide compounds', Frederick Heath and William Province.

'Some aspects of drug allergy', M. W. Chase.

'Allergy in ringworm infections', E. D. DeLamater."—James E. Weiss

Central New York Branch: "The 42nd semi-annual meeting was held on November 1, at Seneca Castle, New York, with 75 in attendance. The program consisted of 12 original contributions of microbiological interest and 2 excellent reviews by Dr. E. H. Smith, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, on 'The use of bacteria in the control of injurious insects', and by Dr. G. L. McNew, of the same Station, on 'New trends in research on plant diseases'. The spring meeting will be held at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York."—Jerome T. Syverton

North Central Branch: "The fall meeting was held at Millard Hall, University of Minnesota, on October 31 and November 1."—H. G. Wood

Eastern Pennsylvania Branch: "The 154th meeting of this Branch was held on Tuesday, October 28, in the auditorium of the Philadelphia County Medical Society Building. One hundred and fifteen members and guests were present. The program was:

'Toxins in the several phases of H. pertussis', E. W. Flosdorf, A. Bondi, T. Dozois.

'The effect of sulfanilylguanidine on Brucella abortus', T. H. Grainger, E. V. Gibson, and E. P. Campbell.

'Mechanism of sulfanilamide action—simultaneous inhibition of the respiration and growth of Streptococcus pyogenes by sulfonamide drugs', M. G. Sevag and Myrtle Shelburne.

'Demonstration by the electron microscope of the combination of antibodies with flagellar and somatic antigens', Stuart Mudd and Thomas F. Anderson.

"The 155th meeting was held on November 25 in the auditorium of the Philadelphia County Medical Society Building. The program follows:

'Electrophoretic analysis of the blood proteins in tuberculosis', F. B. Seibert and W. J. Nelson.

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'Mechanism of immunity in tuberculosis. The fate of tubercle bacilli ingested by mononuclear phagocytes derived from normal and immunized animals', Max B. Lurie and Peter Zappasodi.

'Risk of tuberculous infection in general hospitals', H. L. Israel!—H.E. Morton

Texas Branch: Following is the program for the first meeting of the Texas Branch, honoring the Father of Bacteriology in Texas—Dr. I. M. Lewis:

'The mechanism of the selective action of eosin methylene blue agar on the enteric group', E. Staten Wynne, A. E. Hayward, L. J. Rode.

'Non-coliform bacteria in stools submitted for parasitological examination', W. M. Fisher.

'The salmonella typing center at Baylor College of Medicine', Mac D. Fulton.

'Bacteriophage V form types of typhoid bacilli in Texas. I. Distribution of types', E. B. M. Cook, M. M. Sigel.

'Observations on street rabies in mice', J. V. Irons, S. W. Bohls, and J. D. English.

'The isolation and culture of a cellulose decomposing bacterium from the rumen of cattle', R. E. Hungate.

'The bacteria involved in the ripening of brick cheese', E. M. Foster.

'Pneumococcus type incidence in Texas during 1940-41', J. T. Kroulik and W. E. Ragsdale.

'Toxin production by staphylococcus variants', Sol Haberman.

'Uses of banked blood and adtevac plasma in bacteriology', Preston Harrison.

'Observations on naturally induced human relapsing fever', J. L. Terrell.

'Antigenic variation of borrelia recurrentis in the relapse phenomenon in the white rat', V. T. Schuhardt.

"The meetings were held in the Biology Laboratory Building of the University of Texas at Austin on November 1. The following committees presided: Executive—I. M. Lewis, President; S. W. Bohls, Vice-president; E. B. M. Cook, Treasurer; Cordon Worley, Secretary. Program—Mac D. Fulton, J. V. Irons, Gordon Worley, V. T. Schuhardt, Chairman. Banquet—E. M. Foster, L. L. Lankford, E. B. M. Cook, Chairman."—V. T. Schuhardt

Washington Branch: "The one hundred and twenty-first meeting was held at the U. S. Naval Medical School on October 28. The program follows:

'Bacteriology in the enforcement of the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act', A.C. Hunter

'Type culture collections in total warfare', R. St. John-Brooks."—M. Pittman

#### BOOK REVIEWS

DIAGNOSTIC PROCEDURES AND REAGENTS. American Public Health Association. A.P.H.A., New York (1941) 368 pages. \$2.75

"Rapid advances have recently taken place in the methods of diagnosis, and it has become increasingly necessary to depend upon the proven methods for the isolation and identification of microscopic and ultramicroscopic forms of life. Likewise, dependable serological methods for the study of reactions of the human and animal organisms have become necessary aids in modern epidemiology.

"To meet this recognized need the Coordinating Committee of the Laboratory Section of the American Public Health Association has designated a number of qualified workers to contribute chapters on assigned subjects. Some of the chapters have already appeared from time to time in the Year Book of the American Public Health Association and have had the benefit of criticism and suggestions by the members of the Association prior to the present publication. In other instances (notably in the case of the chapter on pneumonia), the material presented here had been submitted to a large number of workers in the field in advance of publication. Chapters such as

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these, which have had the benefit of repeated revision, will be found especially valuable.

"The book consists of nineteen chapters, of which the first two deal with preparation of media and standardization of reagents. The next ten chapters are devoted to diagnosis of specific bacterial infections and one deals with general topic of food poisoning and food infections. The diagnosis of Syphilis is discussed in three chapters, of which one deals with microscopic and two with serological procedures.

"While this volume represents a very adequate and up-to-date exposition of diagnostic procedures, the authors nevertheless consider it only a progress report and solicit suggestions for improvements to be incorporated in subsequent editions. It is in this spirit that one may be prompted to call attention to some of its imperfections. While in some instances (e.g., in the chapter on Brucellosis) the authors have adequately indicated the existence of differences of opinion with respect to the reliability of certain of the newer procedures, in other chapters (e.g., Tularemia) an undue impression of finality is conveyed to the reader in the discussion of procedures, the validity of which has not been so solidly established.

"Although rabies is the only virus disease for which a definitive laboratory diagnosis is made routinely at present, there can be no doubt that the laboratory worker will be called upon more and more for aid in diagnosis of the many virus diseases whose endemnicity is now being recognized. Since the diagnosis of these diseases, unlike rabies, does not depend upon the recognition of inclusion bodies, it would seem desirable that subsequent editions have a general chapter on viruses. This should include not only methods for the isolation and identification of viruses, but also serological methods for detection of past exposure."—Jacob Bronfenbrenner

HANDBOOK OF PHYTOPATHOGENIC VIRUSES. F. O. Holmes. Burgess Publishing Company, Minneapolis (1939) 221 pages. \$2.00

"The title of this book does not indicate that it is a proposed classification of plant viruses, but the contents leave no doubt on this score. The author indicates his interpretation of the pretensions of the work in the preface, thus: 'The classification of viruses in the present Handbook is an amplification of the proposed system.' Bearing upon 'classification', the book displays a courageous effort to assemble the important available information regarding the host symptoms—reflecting response to virus infections; at the same time, there is included in the description of each disease some of the important properties and relations of the virus agency inducing the disease. The reviewer regards this consolidation of information as excellent. The citations from the extensive literature also represent a serviceable choice of material. In spite of the obvious intention, the Handbook is not a virus classification at all; it is rather a disease classification based primarily upon gross color, morphological, or necrotic symptoms. Besides such characteristics of disease, the descriptions of the ten families seldom include any other information except a mention of vectors, when known. Many will regret, and no doubt deeply, that a new 'system' has been set up to encumber synonymy. What would the bacteriologist or the mycologist think of a 'classification' of phytopathogenic bacteria or fungi, based primarily upon symptoms, yet pretending to fix the limitations of 'families', 'genera', and 'species'? Where else may one find a 'classification' of this sort in which each family is made up of a single genus, and a generic description is superfluous? Obviously, from the progress thus far made, the time will come when a classification of viruses, built on virus properties, may be achieved. The reviewer feels that there is still the pressing need for an acceptable nomenclature of the plant virus diseases, and hope is expressed that it may come with the backing of an international committee, so that 'Ruga tabaci', for example, may not soon amass more than its present quota of thirteen 'synonyms'."—B. M. Duggar

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MICROBES WHICH HELP OR DESTROY US. Paul W. Allen, D. Frank Holtman, and Louise A. McBee. C. V. Mosby Company, St. Louis (1941) 540 pages. \$3.50

"Obviously designed to popularize 'Germs and Mankind' the majority of this elementary volume is devoted to the harmful bacteria and their diseases. A two page chapter deals with Pasteur's aid to the Orleans vinegar industry while six pages are all that are needed to dispose of 'Some Friendly Microbes'. The remainder of the 64 chapters relate to specific diseases; community hygiene; food, soil, dairy and sanitary bacteriology; and other topics including the beginnings of science and of bacteriology.

"In addition to the usual photographs of cultures, laboratory equipment, laboratories, men, etc., this volume includes a number of reproductions of woodcuts and of murals. The entire volume is printed on green, 'eye-ease' paper.

"The statements concerning the microbial fermentation of olives (p. 491) should be expanded, if future editions are needed, to indicate the role of the lye treatment prior to fermentation."—L. S. McClung

#### NEWS ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

The Sedgwick Memorial Medal "for distinguished service in public health", of the A.P.H.A., was presented at the Atlantic City meeting to Dr. Charles Armstrong, Senior Surgeon of the U. S. Public Health Service, and investigator at the National Institute of Health, in recognition of "research on the transmission of sleeping sickness, parrot fever, and infantile paralysis".

Dr. and Mrs. Robert S. Breed have left for a trip to the West Indies, Central America and the west coast of South America, where Dr. Breed will carry out a survey for the Inter-American Committee for Dairy Industries during his sabbatic leave from Cornell University.

Dr. Alice C. Evans, Senior Bacteriologist of the U. S. Public Health Service, and of the National Institute of Health, delivered a lecture on "Brucellosis" at the Ohio State University on November 3, 1941. The lecture was sponsored by the Graduate School and the Department of Bacteriology.

Dr. Carroll W. Grant from Brooklyn College, New York, is spending the year on sabbatical leave studying the metabolism of marine bacteria with Claude E. ZoBell at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Dr. Grant's work is supported by funds from the American Philosophical Union.

Dr. John N. McDonnell, Assistant Professor in Pharmacy at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, and Editor of the American Professional Pharmacist, has been chosen to head the health supplies and drug division of the Bureau of Research and Statistics of the Office of Production Management in Washington.

Dr. Karl F. Meyer, Professor of Bacteriology and Director of the Hooper Foundation of the Medical School of the University of California, will give the Craig Lecture at the annual meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine in St. Louis on November 10, and on November 14 and 15 will speak before the Southern California Medical Association.

Dr. Marvin Speck recently accepted the position of Assistant Bacteriologist with the Sealtest Research Laboratories, Baltimore, Maryland.

Dr. W. H. Taliaferro, Dean of the Division of Biological Sciences, University of Chicago, has been appointed visiting professor at the School of Tropical Medicine at Puerto Rico.

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IN MEMORIAM

Clarence George Sutton  
1892 - 1940

"Clarence George Sutton, was born in Watertown, New York, December 13, 1892. His early education was obtained in the public schools of Watertown, New York, and Elkhorn, Wisconsin. Entering the University of Wisconsin in 1910, he was graduated in 1914 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry. Following his graduation, Mr. Sutton was first employed by the Minnesota State Dairy and Food Administration. In 1916, he accepted a position with the Bureau of Chemistry in Washington, serving in the Insecticide and Fungicide Laboratory until 1918, when he became associated with the B.B. Culture Laboratory, Inc., of Yonkers, New York, as Chemist and Bacteriologist, which connection was continued until his death on October 11, 1940, at which time he was President of the Corporation.

"Mr. Sutton did considerable graduate work in Chemistry and Bacteriology at George Washington and Columbia Universities. He was a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, the American Chemical Society, the Society of American Bacteriologists and the Calvary Baptist Church of Yonkers, New York."—Maple L. Sutton

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Organisms Wanted: The American Type Culture Collection, Georgetown University Medical School, 3900 Reservoir Road, Northwest, Washington, D. C., is interested in obtaining the following organisms: Myxobacterales, Myxomycetes, Chlamydobacteriaceae, and Thiobacterales in pure culture; and a culture of Eremothecium ashbyii.

Book Wanted: One of our members is most anxious to buy a copy of Weinberg's Les Microbes Anaerobies, Masson et Cie., Paris, 1937. Please inform the Secretary-Treasurer if you have this book and if you want to buy or sell any of the following:

To Buy: JOURNAL OF BACTERIOLOGY--Volumes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 #3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15, 18, 21, 22 #2; 15 #1; 15, 18. BACTERIOLOGICAL REVIEWS--Volumes 1, 2, 3; 1, 2, 3, 4; 2, 3.

To Sell: JOURNAL OF BACTERIOLOGY--Volumes 23 #6; 28 #1, 2; 29 #3, 5; 31 #2, 3, 4, 5, 6; 35 #1.

Changes of addresses from those printed in the 1941 Directory:

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Carlquist, P. R., (Captain), Barnes General Hospital, Vancouver, Washington  
Christensen, W. B., (Staff Sergeant), 216th General Hospital, Camp Forrest, Tennessee  
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Evans, Alice C., National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland  
Faville, Louis W., Bact. Dept., Animal Industry Bldg., Louisiana State University,  
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Kauffmann, Gladys, 4801 Connecticut Avenue, Apt. 308, Washington, D. C.  
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Knott, Helen I., Dept. of Bact., University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky  
Kroulik, John T., Dept. of Botany and Bact., Clemson Agr. College, Clemson, S. C.  
Laffer, Norman C., Lederle Laboratories, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York  
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    Benjamin Harrison, Indiana  
Levin, William, (Lt. Col. Sanitary Corps), Station Hospital, Camp Roberts, California  
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Lipovsky, Irving, 911 West Springfield Avenue, Urbana, Illinois  
Lyons, Don C., 420 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan (renewal)  
McBee, Richard H., 2702 Woodsdale Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland  
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MacLeod, Colin M., N.Y. Univ. College of Medicine, 477 First Avenue, New York, N.Y.  
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Manczyk, Johannes, 514 Ridgeway Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio  
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Morriess, Albert W., Johns Hopkins Medical School, Baltimore, Maryland  
Neiman, Irwin S., 6442 North Albany Avenue, Chicago, Illinois  
Petruska to Petty, Olive B., Post Office Box 40, Alameda, California  
Pittman, Margaret, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland  
Ratti, G. A., Jr., 329 Buckingham Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana  
Reith, Allan F., Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
Rich, George T., Station Hospital, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri  
Richardson, James H., 4129 Rose Street, Western Springs, Illinois  
Rudert, F. J., Commercial Solvents, Terre Haute, Indiana  
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Tarpinia to Tarpinian, Manuel S., 608 Kales Building, Detroit, Michigan  
Tiedebohl, Harry B., Ahepa Nat'l Sanatorium, 1301 E. Gold Ave., Albuquerque, N. M.  
Tittsler, Ralph P., Research Lab., Bur. of Dairy Industry, U.S.D.A., Washington, D.C.  
Vieta, Angel, 310 Reina Street, Havana, Cuba  
Weiss, Emil, Post Office Box 714, Chicago, Illinois  
Witlin, Bernard, Territorial Department of Health, Honolulu, Hawaii

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